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USSR-Germany-Europe: [The Soviets, without abandoning the multilateral approach, have reportedly given their Warsaw Pact allies encouragement for conducting bilateral negotiations with Bonn.]

[redacted] the Soviets have told their allies that the time is ripe for pursuing talks with Bonn to settle long-standing bilateral issues. Moscow [redacted] suggested specifically that the East Germans try to settle the problem of recognition, the Poles the Oder-Neisse border, the Czechoslovaks the abrogation of the 1938 Munich Agreement, and the Hungarians their claims for financial restitution.)

[redacted] the Soviets have argued that because of West German Chancellor Brandt's expressed intention of improving relations, East European pressure now to resolve outstanding bilateral issues could lead to West German concessions. The Warsaw Pact declaration on 31 October on the subject of a European security conference also endorsed bilateral talks, as well as multilateral talks.)

[redacted] the Soviets may be trying to separate subjects appropriate for bilateral talks from subjects they would prefer to reserve for the multilateral context of the security conference. The Soviets have stressed renunciation of force agreements as a conference topic. Soviet Ambassador Tsarapkin saw West German Foreign Minister Scheel yesterday, presumably to discuss questions of European security. He may have given the West Germans some indication of Moscow's attitude on this question.)

[Brandt would welcome Soviet encouragement of efforts to settle long-standing issues with Bonn's East European neighbors as a first dividend of his Eastern policy. He would try to be as forthcoming

as possible, but there are limits on how far he can go. Bonn also will resist Soviet efforts to shift renunciation of force negotiations to a multilateral framework, preferring bilateral talks in the hope of getting concessions from each negotiating partner.

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**Southern Lebanon:
Recent Agreement Permits Fedayeen Freedom of Action in Limited Areas**



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NOTE

Lebanon: [The fedayeen apparently have gained greater concessions from Lebanon than had previously been believed. [redacted] the fedayeen have been given freedom of action in three southern areas just inside the border; access to these areas from Mount Hermon will be facilitated by a road which the Lebanese Army is to build for the fedayeen. The commandos were also given permission to maintain the significant presence within the various Palestinian refugee camps that they established during the October crisis. They are also permitted to move both men and equipment from the camps to infiltration points along the border provided such moves are coordinated with the army.]

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(Map)

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